

iTEP SLATE Ability Guide

Use this table to see at a glance how well an individual can use English to communicate “in the real world.”

CEFR	iTEP	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking
C1 Advanced	6.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completely comprehends main idea and supporting details of complicated language, even in unfamiliar situations. Advanced awareness of speaker's attitudes and implications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capable of highly accurate interpretation of long, demanding texts. Can deduce abstract, implicit meaning within texts, beyond concrete information. Recognizes a wide range of vocabulary. Completely comprehends main idea and supporting details of complicated language, even in unfamiliar situations. Advanced awareness of speaker's attitudes and implications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses wide variety of language to clearly express themselves without restriction. Errors are uncommon and difficult to find. Ideas expressed clearly and smoothly through complex writing structures. Advanced level of grammatical control - almost no mistakes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expresses self fluently and spontaneously without any indication of restriction. Language is fluid and natural -- speaker does not require long pauses to consider accurate expression. Advanced level of grammatical accuracy, with rare mistakes.
B2 Upper Intermediate	5.0 - 5.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehends main idea and supporting details with relative ease. Understands most language but may struggle with unfamiliar situations. High awareness of speaker's attitudes and implications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capable of accurate interpretation of long, demanding texts, but may experience confusion with unfamiliar genres. Understands the main points on complicated topics, including technical language, but will likely struggle with implicit concepts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses language clearly and purposefully, indicating minimal restriction. Language range is sufficient to express viewpoints and arguments. Accurately uses complex sentence forms. High level of grammatical control; occasional mistakes do occur, but generally do not distract from meaning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expresses self fluently and spontaneously with minimal restriction. Could interact with native speaker with relative ease and low likelihood of communication breakdown. High level of grammatical control- mistakes do occasionally occur, but generally they do not distract from meaning.
B1 Intermediate	4.0 - 4.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehends main ideas but will likely miss supporting details. Understands almost all language related to familiar topics. Generally, requires clear, explicit language for full comprehension of ideas. Limited awareness of speaker's attitudes and implications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capable of understanding main points of straightforward content, but will likely struggle with longer, more demanding texts or unfamiliar genres. Requires concrete language and will struggle with abstract content. Vocabulary limitations prevent complete understanding of content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses language with reasonable accuracy to explain unpredictable events related to general topics (e.g. school, work or travel). Meaning can generally be discerned throughout the text. Vocabulary limitations often result in awkward phrasing and repetition of ideas. Grammatical accuracy is reasonable, but L1 interference or frequent errors are present. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expresses self with relative accuracy, indicating ability to be understood in unfamiliar situations. Could sufficiently interact with a native speaker, but some communication breakdowns may occur. Grammatical control acceptable mistakes occur regularly and sometimes distract from meaning.
A2 Elementary	2.5 - 3.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehends basic conversations and content related to familiar topics. Requires reduced rate of speech for full comprehension. Unlikely to fully understand, even when content is related to familiar topics. Only understands familiar expressions and concrete language. Unaware of speaker's attitudes and implications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands only straightforward sentences and common expressions. Full understanding of text requires highly concrete and familiar information. Vocabulary limitations allow for comprehension of only basic information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses mostly basic language, resulting in considerable restrictions in expression. Meaning is relatively clear when discussing a basic, familiar topic. Communication breakdowns are frequent when transitioning to unfamiliar topics. Can use basic and compound sentence patterns accurately. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inability to fully express ideas-struggles in unfamiliar situations. Can communicate sufficiently in simple tasks and in routine situations but frequently encounters communication breakdowns when discussing unfamiliar topics. Requires simple, direct exchange of information to be properly understood. Frequent grammatical mistakes distract from overall intelligibility.
A1 Beginner	0.1 - 2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only comprehends basic language. Requires reduced rate of speech and with extreme clarity. Understands simple language when familiar words and phrases are used (e.g. greetings, high frequency words and expressions). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands highly familiar language and common expressions. Full understanding of text requires highly simple and basic language. Significant vocabulary limitations result in only the most basic content being understood. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses basic language exclusively (e.g. personal information; high frequency vocabulary; familiar places) Errors occur at high frequency, preventing overall meaning from being discerned. Can write simplistic words, phrases, and sentences. Only uses simple sentence patterns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unable to express self except in extremely basic situations. Can introduce themselves to others and provide personal information Encounters communication breakdowns almost always when discussing any unfamiliar content. Grammatical mistakes frequently make language unintelligible.